

SOMERVILLE BICYCLE COMMITTEE

MINUTES

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Steve DaSilva, Secretary

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Jing Dai

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Open Position, Office of the Mayor

Bob Trane, Board of Alderman

Commissioner Stanley Koty, Department of Public Works

Terry Smith, Traffic & Parking

Kathleen Ziegenfuss, Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development

Chief Anthony Holloway, Police Department

MEETING MINUTES: Tuesday, November 17, 2009, 7:00 p.m., City Hall

COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES ATTENDING: Brian, Charles, Steve, Enid

EX-OFFICIO ATTENDING: Kathleen Ziegenfuss

GUESTS ATTENDING: Lauren Clayton, Alex Epstein, Scott Clark

PROCEDURAL BUSINESS:

1. Meeting called to order at 7:06 p.m.
2. Minutes: The Committee voted all in favor to approve the October 2009 meeting minutes, as amended.
3. Action Items: Action items from the previous meetings were reviewed and updated in this meeting.
4. Membership:
 - The Somerville Bicycle Committee (SBC) welcomes Kathleen Ziegenfuss as Somerville's Bicycle Coordinator, among other positions, in the Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development. Kathleen is originally from Minnesota, schooled in Boston, and has a background in urban planning. Kathleen is an experienced bicycle commuter, and has a thorough understanding of the issues faced by the bicycling community.
 - Alex Epstein Membership Request (Kathleen): Alex's application for membership to the SBC will be brought in front of the Board of Alderman for a vote during their next meeting.
 - Mayor's Representation: No Update
5. Budget: This year the SBC spent \$266.35 of members personal money, on items such as; printing copies of maps, and a table fee at ArtBeat. This cost will be split up among the members of SBC.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. MAPC Bike Share Program: (Kathleen): Will be meeting with Boston, to find out the status of the bike share program there.
2. OSPCD Bike Plan: No update.
3. Proposed Bike Lane Ordinance: No update.
4. Bike Lane and Parking Enforcement (Alex): Alex left a message with the parking and traffic department about enforcing the 1 foot from curb parking law, especially when a bike lane is present. He will follow up on this.

PROJECT UPDATES:

1. Infrastructure:

- Somerville/Beacon Intersection (Kathleen): The design has already gone in front of the Design Committee. Painting will be done in the spring.
- Beacon St (Kathleen): Repaving is currently part of the 2011 TIP (Transportation Improvement Program). Repainting the bike lanes is part of the scope of this design.
- DCR Alewife Sidewalk Widening & Mystic River Parkway Bridge (Brian): Alan has drafted a letter to the Mayor, to request his support for the MPO to add the Minuteman Connector project to the 2010-2013 TIP. The SBC has requested that Kathleen determine if this is necessary, since this might have already been decided.
- Bike Racks (Kathleen): 10 racks are on schedule to be installed soon. Possibly another 20 will be installed this fall depending on the weather. More racks are on order for spring installation using the MAPC grant. Progress has been made on the bike rack map that will be located on the city's website. Kathleen has made contact with Livable Streets to add Somerville on their bike rack request tool on their website.
- Portable Bike Rack Trailer: No update.
- Poor Pavement Priorities (Alex): Alex has not found a precedence for paving just a stripe of pavement where poor pavement is located at biking locations on streets. SBC would like to see a case study of the paving just a stripe, or a pros/cons list that can be presented to DPW as a possible solution, before the SBC will promote this idea. Alex will come up with a list of paving priorities. Lauren will compile a list of sidewalk defect issues as well.
- Innovative Bike Facility Pilot (Charlie): Charlie hopes to have a formal proposal for next month's meeting. There are three ideas that are being discussed; 1. An advisory bike lane, which is a dashed line to represent a bike lane when there is not a road centerline. Motor vehicles are allowed to drive in the dashed lanes, and then pull in center of road to pass cyclists. 2. Cycletrack, European or US type, to be determined. 3. Contraflow lane on a local street. For example, the one way section of Cedar St. might work.
- Layouts Proposed:
 - Willow Ave: Postponed until next year.
 - Temple St: Any painting will have to wait for the street reconstruction due to gas line installation. The status of this project is unknown at this time. Can bike lanes or sharrows fit? If bike lanes do not fit, an up hill bicycle lane, and down hill sharrows would be preferred. Kathleen will look into the status of the paving for this street. Steve will do a curb to curb measurement.
 - Chestnut/Joy St: Repaved. Will have sharrows.
 - Mystic Ave (Charlie): Charlie thinks it would be a good idea to have bike lanes from Boston into Somerville on Mystic. Charlie will markup the Somerville by Bicycle map with a Mystic Ave bicycle facility proposal.
 - Lower Broadway: Kathleen to look into the status of this area.

2. Events:

- Winter Bicycle Forum (Steve): Who should we invite? We could advertise to bike shops and the bike ride email list. The SBC should attend the Somerville envisioning meetings, and talk to the facilitators there to get ideas. Steve will add the envisioning meetings to the SBC's Google website calendar.

3. Route Planning:

- East/West Bike Route & Direction Signage (Ron and Brian): Brian and Ron are working on a route, and need to come up with a signage plan. The plan will then be sent to Traffic and Parking for feedback.
- Street Suitability Map (Scott and Brian): Scott would like to see every street rated, similar to a ski trail map. We still need to decide how the ratings would be done. (How many people, who, make it public or just SBC? Boston had the public add to a Google map, and then averaged the routes, but there is no easy way to correlate individual riding ratings to how the map was rated). A list of questions could be asked of each street, like; 'Would you teach your child to ride a bike on this street?' This could also be related to the safe routes to school project.

4. Education/Outreach:

- Merchandise: No update.
- Website (Steve): Steve would like to add a project page to the SBC's website. This page would have basic updates on Community Path, repaving plans, and route work. Steve will create a draft, and send a dead link to the SBC for comments.
- 311 FAQ (Alex and Brian): Alex has sent the FAQs to the city, and not sure when they will be posted.
- Safe-Routes to School (Alan): No update.
- Road Rage Reduction (Scott): Scott came up with some idea, and the committee will review them. Brain talked with the police department, and they are willing to send us a list of the most often occurring bicycle infractions. The SBC could then have it translated in different languages, and mailed to Somerville residents.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Greenline Extension DEIR (Brian): SBC members should forward comments to Brian about the Greenline Extension DEIR by next meeting, so they can be compiled and sent in before the deadline of January 8, 2010.

ACTION ITEM SUMMARY:

Item #	Action Item	Responsible
14	To look into whether we need a replacement for Ex-Officio Mike Lambert, since he is not working in the Mayor's Office now - Brian will contact mayor's office, have not received a response	Brian
23	Break the OSPCD plan into 5 sections, and assign one of each to Alan, Ron, Brian, Charlie, and Steve D. - Update Aug. 2009 - Alan send out and gave assignments. All to now look at their assignments, and comment	Alan, Ron, Brian, Charlie, Steve D.
29	Take a fresh look at the proposed bike lane ordinance.	Scott and Alan
40	Look into the costs and options for a banner.	Steve D
43	Markup the Somerville by Bicycle map with a Mystic Ave bicycle facility proposal	Charlie
45	Look at possible on-street bike parking in Davis (Charlie) and Union (Steve)	Charlie and Steve D
46	Contact Parking and Traffic about enforcing parking close to curb for busy streets with bike lanes and sharrows.	Charlie
51	Add more previous ride events to the website.	Ron and Steve
52	Come to November's meeting with a plan and a date for the spring projects.	All
53	Create a list on paving priorities.	Alex
54	Create a list of sidewalk defects.	Lauren
55	Determine if Alan's Minuteman Connector letter should be forwarded to the Mayor depending on relevance.	Kathleen
56	Check on the status of Temple St. and lower Broadway.	Kathleen
57	Do a curb to curb measurement of Temple St.	Steve
58	Add Somerville envisioning meetings to SBC Google Calendar.	Steve
59	Create draft of 'Projects' page for SBC comments.	Steve
60	Forward Greenline DEIR comments to Brian to compile and send in before deadline Jan. 8.	All

The meeting adjourned at 9:09 p.m. The next meeting is 7:00 p.m., December 15, 2009 at City Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve DaSilva, Secretary, Somerville Bicycle Committee